

Brigade Comprised of Multiple Pieces

By Pfc. Matthew McLaughlin
10th Mtn. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq -- E Pluribus Unum: Out of many comes one. Like the diverse nation it represents, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Commandos), 10th Mountain Division is a melting pot of units from around the United States.

The massive forging of the Commando team is both a unique and rapidly developed deployment, said Col. Mark Milley, 2nd BCT commander.

"This is my eighth contingency operation," Milley said. "I have never done one that is as complex and involves so many Soldiers from as many different installations on such short notice."

Milley said it took less than a week for the new Commando team from 10 separate locations to officially assemble.

"Within about four or five days all the major issues were resolved with regards to which units would comprise the 2nd BCT," he said. "Once they were settled, the units began to conduct home-station training in preparation for deployment. We had wheels up on the first Soldiers 36 days after notification."

Units fighting alongside the 10th Mountain Division include 1st Battalion 41st Infantry Regiment from Fort Riley, Kan.; Companies A and B,

1st Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment, Fort Polk, La.; 58th Combat Engineer Company, Fort Irwin, Calif.; Company B, 27th Airborne Engineers, Fort Bragg, N.C.; 1st Platoon, 463rd Military Police Battalion, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo; 425th Civil Affairs Battalion, Santa Barbara, Calif.; the 345th

Tactical Psychological Operations Detachment, Dallas, Texas, as well as Soldiers from the 101st and 81st Airborne Divisions. All attached units bring their own unique abilities to the Commandos, Milley said.

Soldiers from 1-41 INF provide combat experience, especially as an attached unit. This is their third deployment in less than three years in this area of operations. It is also the eighth brigade 1-41 INF Soldiers have served under, said Staff Sgt. Robert Dannerberg, 1-41 INF.

"Why did we deploy as a lone unit? Because we do it all the time," Dannerberg said. "I'd say 65 to 70 percent of the people over here are combat vets from this unit."

"They are our most powerful punch on the battlefield," Milley said.

The Commando brigade also possesses training units that usually don't deploy. 509th Infantry and 58th Engineers train as Opposing Forces (OPFOR) in their respective units, playing the role of "the enemy" on their posts. The

509th INF are the OPFOR at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La. and the 58th is the engineer company at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.

"The 509th Infantry are a tremendous instrument to the team," Milley said. "They are among the finest

trained infantry in the American Army. They are very familiar with the tactics, techniques and procedures that the enemy uses in Iraq."

Soldiers from the 58th ENG bring engineering capabilities as well as

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By Sgt. Sgt. Merrion LaSonde, 122nd MPAD

Members of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 39th Brigade Combat Team, uncover 38 wooden crates of .50 caliber-armor piercing rounds during a patrol in a palm-tree grove located on the outskirts of Taji village near Camp Cooke. In the crates were two ammunition cans containing 50, 12.5 mm rounds each.

2nd BCT Built from Units Around the Nation

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infantry training, Milley said.

While the 58th ENG would normally focus on constructing tank fighting positions or breaching larger wire and mined obstacles at the training center, its' roles here will focus on ensuring force protection, freedom of movement and old fashioned infantry tactics.

"We do a lot of route reconnaissance, route clearing, making sure the roads are clear of IEDs," said 2nd Lt. Patrick Armstrong, 58th ENG operations officer. "Our M-113 Armored Personnel Carriers also provide armored capabilities to infantry units."

Psychological Operations and Civil Affairs Soldiers have worked with the Iraqi community for several months before the Commandos arrived. Their goal is to strengthen Iraqi and coalition bonds and to win the trust and confi-



By Pfc. Matthew McLaughlin, 10th Mtn. Div. Public Affairs

Col. Mark Milley, 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Commandos) commander, 10th Mountain Division, speaks to a group of advanced party Soldiers before they deploy to Iraq. The Commandos are comprised from 10 different units from across the U.S. The Division is headquartered at Fort Drum in New York state. dence of the Iraqi people, said Sgt. 1st Class Randy Gale, Civil Affairs Team B first sergeant.

The Commandos come from many locations and

provide diverse skills and talents. One thing all the units have in common is their understanding of their responsibilities and their willingness to work togeth-

er, Milley said.

"It's primarily due to the adaptive leaders, non-commissioned officers and officers we have throughout the Army," Milley said.



SAFETY TIP FIELD EXPEDIENCY "CUTTING CORNERS"

DON'T

- ♦DO A JOB WITHOUT THE PROPER EQUIPMENT
- ♦RUSH A JOB IF THERE IS NOT A COMBAT NECESSITY
- ♦"RE-WIRE THE HOUSE IF YOU'RE NOT AN ELECTRICIAN"

DO

- ♦STOP, THINK, AND THEN ACT
- ♦SEEK GUIDANCE IF UNSURE
- ♦LOOK FOR SAFER ALTERNATIVES

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

how much/many?

kaam

Friday

High: 109
Low: 78



Saturday

High: 110
Low: 80



Sunday

High: 108
Low: 78



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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News Notes

Philly Considers Wireless for All

PHILADELPHIA (AP) -- For less than what it costs to build a small library, city officials believe they can turn all 135 square miles of Philadelphia into the world's largest wireless Internet hot spot. The ambitious plan, now under discussion, would involve placing thousands of small transmitters around the city - probably atop lampposts. Each of these wireless hot spots would be capable of communicating with the Wi-Fi network cards that now come standard with many computers. Once complete, the \$10 million network would deliver broadband Internet almost anywhere radio waves can travel - including poor neighborhoods where high-speed Internet access is now rare.

Loansharks Gouge Military Families

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) -- The state attorney general filed a civil lawsuit Wednesday accusing a sales catalog company of actually being a loan-sharking operation that preys on cash-strapped military families. The catalog offers \$50 in high-interest loans for every \$15 that customers spend on gift certificates and other items. Attorney General Eliot Spitzer said N.Y. Catalog Sales and its owner, John Gill, violated state loansharking laws in its three stores, two of which are outside the Fort Drum Army base.

Sheilah MacDonald of Duvall, Wash. found three cougar kittens behind a fence in her yard Aug. 21 and turned them over to the Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), a local wildlife animal shelter. For now, the baby cougars will stay at PAWS, feeding on milk and quail parts, while officials try to find them a home. The state Department of Fish and Wildlife says the kittens should not be returned to the wild. According to officials the 5-week old kittens are too young to survive on their own and, if released, might associate the human scent with food, making them a danger.



Seattle Times

Fort Hood Wives Club Signs on Newcomers

KILLEEN, Texas (*Fort Hood Herald*) - The Fort Hood Officers' Wives' Club had a goal to sign up at least 380 new members during its annual Super Sign-up event, at the post's Officers' Club.

The event Aug. 26 was sponsored jointly by the Officers' Wives Club and the Enlisted Spouses' Club and offered military spouses the chance to see what the community has to offer, meet new friends and join either club.

"This event is to welcome new people to the area and show them what the surrounding communities have to offer," said Garlan Martens, the club's president. "And to invite them to our club."

The officers' wives organize charity events such as the Holiday Bazaar, Wild West Night and Celebrity Golf

Scramble each year, along with monthly luncheons for members.

The profits from the fund-raisers benefit Fort Hood organizations such as the Fort Hood Scholarship Fund, Families in Crisis, the Fisher House and the American Red Cross. Welfare requests are submitted and the club members decide where the funds will go, Martens said.

More than 100 vendors were spread throughout the facility, promoting their organization or selling their wares.

The club tries to have only nonprofit organizations represented in the booths, but there were a few for-profits, such as Mary Kay, gift shops and catering organizations to give a more accurate cross-section of the community,

said Wendy Lacey, the club's hospitality chairman.

Community representatives from Killeen, Copperas Cove, Harker Heights, and even Belton were present.

The enlisted spouses also signed up members during the event. With membership hovering around 300, organizers hoped to gain around 30 new members at the event, said Linda Ortiz, a club volunteer.

The goal of the enlisted group is to "promote the welfare and significantly advance and improve the quality of life for soldiers and family members at Fort Hood," its Web site states.

The enlisted group organizes a number of fund-raisers and donates thousands of dollars each year to Fort Hood and the surrounding communities.

Relaxed Williams Prevails in Open

NEW YORK (NBC Sports) -- This is all you need to know about Serena Williams' concerns at the U.S. Open:

After warming up for what would be a 6-4, 6-3 second-round victory Wednesday against Lindsay Lee-Waters, Williams approached the chair umpire with an urgent request - could someone get her purse from the locker room? She forgot to put on earrings.

Williams' health and tennis might not have been perfect over the past year, but her fashion sense and Q-rating are just fine, thank you.

"I consider myself an entertainer," she said. "I remember always thinking of myself as a broader picture as opposed to just your normal athlete. I don't think I've ever been your normal athlete. I've always had something different going on in my life."

Williams made her Open debut Monday night in a short, pleated denim



AP
Serena Williams hits a forehand during her 6-4, 6-3 victory over Lindsay Lee-Waters Wednesday.

skirt. On Wednesday, she wore black hot pants and a navel-ring revealing, studied tight tank top.

"It doesn't matter what you look like; it's all about having confidence," she said.

After rising to No. 1 and winning a self-styled

Serena Slam of four straight majors, she had left knee surgery in August 2003, and hasn't been the same since. Williams missed 8½ months, won her first tournament back in March - but owns zero titles since and her ranking slid to 11th.

Knight Gets Sitcom Deal

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) -- The life and times of Bobby Knight could soon be inside America's living rooms. The fiery Texas Tech coach met with television officials last month in Los Angeles and gave his approval for a sitcom deal. CBS and Paramount Television are exploring the development of a half-hour comedy that could run by next year.

Knight, 63, would serve as a consultant and said he might make guest appearances.

"Right now it's still in

an embryonic stage," said Lindy DeKoven, the show's executive producer.

The next step is for a writer to come to Lubbock and spend time getting to know Knight at work and at home.

When the script is written, DeKoven will take it to CBS, which will decide whether to make it a pilot.

John Wentworth, executive vice president of marketing and media for Paramount Television, said the show would possibly be ready to run in September 2005.



AP
A half-hour comedy show about the life and times of Texas Tech men's basketball coach Bobby Knight could possibly hit the airwaves in 2005.

Sports Shorts



Ichiro Hits Most in 66 Years

SEATTLE (AP) -- According to ongoing research by the Elias Sports Bureau, Suzuki's 56 hits in August is the highest in a month since Jeff Heath got 58 for Cleveland in August 1938. Heath was a two-time All-Star with Cleveland. Boosted by his big month, he hit .343 in 1938 with 112 RBIs, and led the AL with 18 triples. With 212 hits through Tuesday night, Suzuki is pursuing George Sisler's major league record of 257 hits in a season, accomplished in 1920 with the St. Louis Browns.

Pennington Signs for 7 with Jets

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (AP) - Chad Pennington agreed to a \$64 million, seven-year contract extension with the New York Jets on Wednesday that includes \$23 million in guaranteed money. The quarterback, entering his fifth season, also receives the second-largest amount of up-front money, behind only Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning, who got a \$34.5 million signing bonus earlier this year. Pennington's total deal is worth \$62.197 million.